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Work has been commenced, and will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible, in the hope that the structural steel for the building which is to contain the 5-foot reflector may be sent up the mountain in May, 1907.

The width of the road, which is determined by the size of the large castings to be transported, will average about eight feet, widening to ten feet or more on the turns. The automobile truck, on which the materials for the building and telescope will be carried, has been ordered from the Couple-Gear Freight-Wheel Company, of Grand Rapids. It has been specially designed for the purpose, as the 10-foot worm-gear and other large and cumbersome parts of the mounting (some of them weighing five tons each) could not be carried on the standard truck. The motive power will be a gasoline engine of about forty horse-power, driving a large direct-current dynamo. The dynamo will supply current to four motors mounted within the four wheels of the truck. This truck, which is capable of turning within a very small circle, has been tested by Professor RITCHEY and found to be remarkably well adapted for our purpose. It can be steered equally well from either end, thus permitting it to be reversed, if necessary, at sharp re-entrant turns.

As soon as completed, the truck will be used in the construction work on the trail. For this purpose it will carry an air-compressor of sufficient capacity to supply several rock-drills. The compressor will be driven by the gasoline engine of the truck, and will greatly reduce the cost of the rockwork.

GEORGE E. HALE.

NOTE ON THE VARIABLE RADIAL VELOCITY AND THE PERIOD  
OF *SU Cygni*.

Preliminary measures of ten spectrograms of *SU Cygni*, taken with the one-prism spectrograph during June and July, 1906, show a variation of about forty kilometers per second in its radial velocity, and prove its binary character.

The velocity and light variation seem to have the same period, the phases of the former following those of the latter by about half a day.

Photometric measures of the star on seven nights in June and July of this year indicate that its maxima now precede the

times computed from LUIZET's elements<sup>1</sup> by about 0.4 days. The period is therefore about 3.8455 days.

July 30, 1906.

JAMES D. MADDRILL.

APPOINTMENTS TO LICK OBSERVATORY STAFF.

Dr. BURT L. NEWKIRK, Instructor in Mathematics, University of California, has been appointed Assistant in the Lick Observatory on the Carnegie Institution Foundation, with principal duties in the measurement of spectrograms for determining the radial velocities of stars.

Mr. E. A. FATH, recently Assistant in the Observatory of the University of Illinois, has been appointed Fellow in the Lick Observatory.

Mr. G. B. BLAIR, recently Assistant in the Allegheny Observatory, has been appointed Fellow in the Lick Observatory.

Mt. HAMILTON, July 31, 1906.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

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<sup>1</sup> A. N., Vol. 149, 316, 1899.